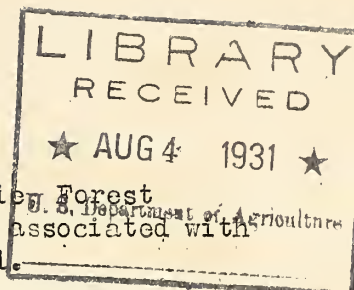


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GOING CAMPING?



A radio forestlogue by C. E. Randall and H. R. Kylier, Forest Service, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Wednesday, July 22, 1931.

ANNOUNCER:

(Introduction) Now I'm going to introduce you to a Forest Ranger and a Camper. They are at a ranger station in one of our national forests. Perhaps New England or the Lake States, or in any Eastern or Southern State - Most of these states now have one or more National Forests, and each year more and more vacationists are coming into them bent on having the best time possible. They want the cool shade of the forest, clear water, fresh air, recreation and inspiration. The camper might be you or I - it doesn't matter - here he is.

CAMPER:

Howdy, Ranger!

RANGER:

How are you, Sir?

CAMPER:

They told me down at the last filling station that if I wanted a good camping place, you could help me. Can you fix me up?

RANGER:

I sure can, Mister. Nothing fancy. Just a nice clean space, good water, and a shady place to pitch your tent.

CAMPER:

That suits me fine. I don't want city conveniences.-- I suppose this is Government land here, isn't it?

RANGER:

Yes. It's a National Forest. You are one of the 120,000,000 owners, by the way.

CAMPER:

I am?

(over)

RANGER:

Yes, sir. The National Forests are managed for the benefit of the public. Here's a map of this National Forest, you might like. These camping places are marked on it. People seem to like to visit them so we've improved them a little. You'll find drinking water, safe fire places, and other facilities. You can move right in. They're free. All we ask is that you keep a clean camp, and watch your matches, cigarettes and camp fires.

CAMPER:

Huh -- You don't ask much, do you? Sounds kinda fussy to me.

RANGER:

Mister, we've got to be careful here in the forests. Fires burn out a lot of valuable timber every year. They burned up a couple of farm houses near here, and threatened towns. -- In some National Forests you have to get a permit to build a campfire. It's a good idea to carry along an ax and a shovel.

CAMPER:

What do I do with them, build a couple of trails in my spare time?

RANGER:

No -- you'll find they come in handy though. The Forest Service takes care of the trails. But you can make good use of a shovel cleaning up camp and putting out your campfire. Be careful with that camp fire. If one gets away it might make a lot of trouble up here in the forest. Young trees are killed, and wild game. Fish are poisoned in the streams, and the city reservoirs below are likely to suffer. Also, friend you'd have to answer to the Judge.

CAMPER:

All right, I'll be careful. --- Say, what's that steel tower on the hill over yonder?

RANGER:

That's one of our lookout towers. The lookout man telephones down soon as he sees a smoke in the woods, and the smokechasers -- they're our fire patrolmen -- get after the fire while it's small. The Forest Service has to extinguish thousands of fires every year. But unless the public is careful with fires, they'll still keep on starting.

CAMPER:

Do you allow people to go up there? I'd like to see that lookout tower.

RANGER:

You can. Just hike up there tomorrow morning. Bill Jackson -- he's the lookoutman -- will be glad to see you. He'll show you a great view from up there.

CAMPER:

Thanks. -- Say, come to think of it, this is a pretty good road for the mountains.

RANGER:

Yes, this is one of our forest development roads. The one you left at the fork is a forest highway. The trail yonder by the hillside is built by the Forest Service. We've built 20,000 miles of roads and 50 thousand miles of trails in our National Forest system.

CAMPER:

Must be a great system. But won't so many roads fill the forests with people and cars and noise and dust?

RANGER:

We aim to provide for the comfort of our visitors, and in our hundred and sixty million acres of land there are lots of quiet places left. Plenty of room for everybody. We're trying to preserve the natural beauty of roadsides, too, and we ask visitors not to destroy flowering plants along roads and around camps.

CAMPER:

I think we'll stop at the next camp marked on this mapfolder here. I see you have some rules on the back about "Preventing Forest Fires."

RANGER:

Yes, And, Mister they're important. You might read them right now.

CAMPER:

It says -- "clear a space five to ten feet in diameter. Scrape away leaves, needles and trash down to mineral soil before starting a camp fire" ---

RANGER:

Yeah, that's it. -- Now just how do you figure you'd do that without a shovel?

CAMPER:

Uh-huh. -- Guess you're right. -- Well, all right Mr. Ranger -- I'll be movin' on -- so long --

RANGER:

Just a minute if you can spare the time. -- You haven't read how to put out that fire yet. Just read that next rule.

CAMPER:

All right. Here it is: "Never leave a fire unattended. Always extinguish it completely before leaving camp." There's nothing hard about that --

RANGER:

It don't look so, Mister, but half the grief we Forest Rangers get is from folks thinking they've put their fire out.

CAMPER:

What do you mean? -- How do you put a camp fire out?

RANGER:

Well, first of all, you pour on a bucket of water, then a second bucket, perhaps a third or even --

CAMPER:

Wait a minute -- aint that about enough water?

RANGER:

Maybe, but it's better to be sure the fire is out than to have to visit the Justice of the Peace. After you've poured on your water stir up the coals from the bottom with the handle of your shovel and -- pour on some more water --

CAMPER:

Yeah, and then fall over from exhaustion and smother any sparks that escape the flood -- I know --

RANGER:

No, just lean on your shovel awhile till you feel better. Then you shovel some dirt on the coals you believe are dead and tramp it down.

CAMPER:

Oh! you bury your dead, eh?

RANGER:

You sure do. And here's one thing more -- keep your camp clean --

not only your own comfort and good health but the other fellows who follow you depends on that. Any good woodsman would do that. Don't leave good manners at home when you go into the woods -- take 'em with you. Be fair to the next camper -- It's a kind of golden rule. Campers are getting so numerous these days in the National Forests that the U. S. Forest Service has to have rules for camping. All we are trying to do is prevent people who own the forests from destroying their own property. Once you start a forest fire -- and mister that's awful easy to do -- you damage or destroy natural resources that can't be replaced for many years, -- if ever. Everybody loses when the forests burn, -- hunters, fishermen, lumbermen, stockmen, farmers and vacationists like you and that isn't all the damage by a long shot --

CAMPER:

That's enough for me -- I'll be good, Mr. Ranger.

RANGER:

Mighty glad to have you with us. -- Hope you enjoy your trip. -- Just another word -- Be careful with burning tobacco, and especially with matches. In one state last year, 1,000 fires were set by careless smokers. Campers are pretty well educated, but smokers are a problem.

CAMPER:

How's that?

RANGER:

Well, -- the city man's used to throwing his matches and cigarette stubs on concrete sidewalks and gutters. It's a habit with him. When he goes into the woods or travels along highways -- out go the burning matches and tobacco. They're pretty likely to fall into dry grass, pine needles, and so on. It's a good idea to break your matches in two. Try it and you'll see what I mean. -- Here's a pen, please sign your name and address on this camper's register.

CAMPER:

All right. -- What's the idea of the auto license number -- what's that for?

RANGER:

For two purposes. We rangers can trace people we want to find and we can trace people to whom their friends want to send any emergency message. One of our jobs is to help tourists and our telephone system all over the forest comes in handy when some one at home is sick or when there's some other special message.

CAMPER:

That's service -- Much obliged to you Mr. Ranger. I've taken up a lot of your time, but you've convinced me of the need to be careful with fire.

RANGER:

That's fine! Mighty glad to hear that. It'd help us if you'd tell others about it, too. Hope you have a fine outing. Drop in on your way back. I'll be glad to see you. Good bye.

CAMPER:

Good bye Mr. Forest Ranger, and thank you.

ANNOUNCER:

31 million people passed through the National Forests in 1930. Between four and five million of these stopped beneath the pines and firs to camp or picnic. The forests really mean a great deal in a recreational way to the people of the United States. And there are National Forests in nearly every section of the country within easy reach of everyone. Maybe you would like to have a copy of the little map folder that the Ranger gave the camper a minute ago. Write to the United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C., and ask for the folder "Vacation in the National Forests."

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